



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
HEADQUARTERS
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD, SUITE 2533
FT. BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-6221

IN REPLY J-6
REFER TO

JUN 21 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR LOGISTICS, USA
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION & LOGISTICS,
USAF
DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR LOGISTICS, USN
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION & LOGISTICS,
USMC
DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF/CHIEF OF STAFF,
USTRANSCOM

SUBJECT: Use of the Department of Defense (DoD) Logistics Community Services in
Component Logistics Modernization Efforts

As each of you move forward in logistics system modernization, I want to ensure that you are personally aware of the eBusiness services that DLA provides to the DoD Logistics Community. These electronic services enable the seamless exchange of information across DoD. This includes managing the flow of transactional data, accessing the reference data repositories, and managing the necessary business rules associated with the information exchange. DLA provides these logistics community services through three of its activities, the Defense Automatic Addressing System Center (DAASC), the Defense Logistics Information System (DLIS), and the Defense Logistics Management Standards Office (DLMSO). Use of these logistics community services will result in a cost avoidance both in the development and maintenance costs associated with the modernization effort.

As we move away from unique DoD transactions and batch processing to commercial transaction types and interactive business processing, the need to provide consistent, seamless, interaction at all levels of the logistics process remains a common objective. The capability to transform data formats to and from unique DoD and the range of commercial transactions exists today at DAASC. By making use of the Defense eBusiness Exchange (DEBX) system, you will be able to implement your modernized systems with full confidence that all DoD logistics systems will continue to communicate effectively and efficiently. The logistics data warehouse maintained at DAASC collects information and allows for DoD level reporting (Logistics Metrics Analysis Reporting System and Customer Wait Time). Interactive access to common reference data sources such as those available from DLIS, DAASC, and the Depot Standard System will also eliminate the need to replicate and reconcile data from the authoritative source into each component's logistics system.

Many of you, like DLA, have embarked on the implementation of commercial enterprise resource planning software packages. The systems integrators and service providers that have been contracted to assist in your efforts may not be aware of the DoD enterprise services that are available to support their efforts. They may assume that they must develop unique transactional data transformations and business rules for each of your existing interfaces (systems, military customers, vendors, etc.) and replicate reference/repository data within your modernized system.

I urge you to encourage your respective program managers to communicate this information to the developers of your modernized systems. Not doing so could result in additional, needless expense and potential breakdown of the DoD logistics system. I have attached several documents; a brief background paper delineating the establishment and mission of DAASC, DLIS, and DLMSO, a list of frequently asked questions, points of contact for further questions, and a pictorial representation of DEBX benefits.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Archer III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RAYMOND A. ARCHER III
Rear Admiral, SC, USN
Vice Director

Attachments

DoD LOGISTICS COMMUNITY SERVICES HISTORY OF DAASC, DLIS, AND DLMSO

Defense Automatic Addressing System Center (DAASC)

In the early 1960s, the Department of Defense (DoD) was experiencing major problems with logistics transactional routing. The error rate for requisitions for materiel routing was over 50 percent. At the time, each Service and agency system maintained its own point-to-point interfaces and routed its own logistics transactions to inventory control points, depots, customers, and vendors. In 1964, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installation and Maintenance requested the establishment of the DAASC as a utility service for centralized logistics (and related financial) transaction and data processing for the DoD. Thirty plus years later, DAASC is still serving DoD by providing the only consistent, common, logistics communications link between DoD, other Federal agency activities, sources of supply, distribution depots, contract management activities, other supply activities, and commercial entities doing business with the DoD logistics business processes.

Defense Logistics Information System (DLIS)

In 1958, the DoD established a new agency in Washington, D.C.; the Armed Forces Supply Support Center (AFSSC). When DLA was created in 1961, DoD delegated management oversight of the AFSSC to DLA. DLIS was subsequently created as a field activity of DLA and became operational in January 1963. DLIS' primary mission was and is to support all logistics functions of the DoD, other Government agencies, and foreign governments through the collection, processing, storage, and dissemination of data in the Federal Logistics Information System (FLIS). FLIS is one of the many reference data sources that DLIS maintains and provides access to.

Defense Logistics Management Standards Office (DLMSO)

The DoD Military Standard Logistics Systems (DoD MILS) were created in 1962 by DoD Directive 4000.25. DLA, as the executive agent, created the DLMSO and assigned them the DoD mission of managing the standards and their supporting business rules through the Defense Logistics Standard System (DLSS). In 1984, DLMSO began development of a new set of standards based on emerging computer and telecommunications technologies and commercial business practices. The resulting Defense Logistics Management System (DLMS) conforms to national electronic data interchange standards established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) and are authorized by DoD Directive 4140.1.

DoD LOGISTICS COMMUNITY SERVICES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Will my developers need to develop and maintain maps between ERP proprietary file formats and the DLSS and other transactions types that are required by other DoD systems (wholesale and retail)?

ANSWER: No. As long as incoming or outgoing logistics transactions are routed through the DEBX, they can be automatically converted to the file format expected by your new system, whether that be X12, XML, or user-defined file. Similarly, your financial and contract management transactions can be converted and routed through the DEBX and provided to DCMA or DFAS in the required formats.

2. Will my developers need to build links to the common data reference sources such as FLIS, CCR, DoDAAF, etc?

ANSWER: No. We are in the process of looking into the development of standard, reusable, application program interfaces (APIs) and protocols that could be used to allow easy access to the common reference data maintained by DLIS, DAASC, or DLMSO. As the APIs are developed they will be published in a repository and available for reuse.

3. I need to have a resident copy of a customer and contractor file in order for the ERP system to process correctly. My developers will need to get copies of the entire reference data files that currently contain this information.

ANSWER: If this is a requirement, the reference data source will provide an initial feed of the data for local file population as the 'master'. Your replicated or 'slave' copy of the 'master' will be updated on a regular basis via transactions routed through DEBX. Your 'slave' database should remain as a read-only file.

4. What is the cost associated with having DEBX perform the data transformations?

ANSWER: If the transformation is between a standard DLSS transaction and a standard Defense Logistics Management System (DLMS) transaction, there is no additional cost. The DLMS are the already developed DoD approved set of X12 documents that replace the DLSS. We are currently pursuing the development of a similarly approved set of XML documents and those transformations will also be available at no additional cost. However, if your requirement is for transformation from one commercial transaction to another, and/or from one user-defined file to another and the maps do not currently exist, there is a one-time charge for map

development. The work effort involved by the staff supporting the DEBX system will affect the cost. Once the map is developed, it becomes part of the standard set of available transformations and there is no additional cost to perform future transformations. You may contact the DoD eBusiness Office (see the attached points of contact) for further information.

5. In my legacy system, I have point-to-point interfaces with some of my customers today that consist of the exchange of DLSS information. I will have to maintain those interfaces when I move to my modernized system and will have to have the new system generate DLSS transactions.

ANSWER: No, according to DoD Directive 8190.1, DoD Logistics Use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Standards, you are not permitted to continue to program the use of DLSS transactions into new or modified systems. If you are able to work with the customers that you maintain these connections with and have the transactions rerouted through the DAASC DEBX system (by changing the IP address), the data transformation can occur at DAASC and your new systems will not be required to program the DLSS. Your customer profiles can be set up and maintained by the DEBX system, thereby relieving your Service or Agency from having to do so.

6. Is the DEBX prepared to do the data transformation between the SAP intermediate document (IDOC) format and the DLSS or other file formats expected by the systems I interface with? If not, I won't be able to use the DEBX since their inability to do that transformation will adversely impact my schedule.

ANSWER: You are encouraged to participate in the Logistics EDI IPT expanded group referenced on Attachment 3. The IPT has established an Information Exchange Services Sub-Group to deal specifically with this issue. Each Service/Agency program manager should interface with their counterparts to determine as early as possible if common IDOC formats can be agreed to. If they can be, then work can begin on the development of standard IDOCs. We realize that each Service/Agency is working on a time-line; the sooner the developers can agree to common IDOC formats or (similar IDOCs that could be reused to greatest effect), the sooner the maps can be built on the DEBX for use by all. If, however, that is not possible and/or you are constrained by dates, recommend you move forward by exchanging X12 or previously agreed to user-defined files (available today) or other commercial standards with the DEBX as an interim solution. Although this solution may still require duplicative translation into and out of IDOC formats in each modernized logistics system, it is an acceptable solution that is in full compliance with DoD Directive 8190.1. I would encourage the exchange and reuse of IDOC to X12 maps between the various programs, if possible. Once standard IDOC maps are developed and in place on the DEBX, the duplicative translations inside each of the modernized systems can (and should be) turned off in favor of using the DEBX maps.

7. We have decided to make use of the DoD enterprise services available to us. How do we go about contacting DLIS, DAASC, and DLMSO?

ANSWER: Please feel free to contact the DLA eBusiness Office for appropriate points of contact (Attachment 3). I would also encourage your program managers and developers to participate in the expanded EDI IPT that has been established to identify and support the requirements of the services and agencies as they move forward with modernization efforts.

DoD LOGISTICS COMMUNITY SERVICES POINTS OF CONTACT

Logistics Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Integrated Project Team (IPT) web site:

<http://www.dla.mil/j-6/log-edi/>

Secretariat/Points of Contact:

Mr. George Kingsley, PCCI, Defense Logistics Management Support Office, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767-0068, DSN 427-0068, george_kingsley@hq.dla.mil

Mr. Terry Gower, PCCI, Defense Logistics Management Support Office, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767- 0067, DSN 427-0067, terry_gower@hq.dla.mil

Logistics EDI IPT – Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) group web site:

http://www.dla.mil/j-6/log-edi/ERP_IPT/default.htm

Secretariat/Points of Contact:

Mr. George Kingsley, PCCI, Defense Logistics Management Support Office, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767-0068, DSN 427-0068, george_kingsley@hq.dla.mil

Mr. Terry Gower, PCCI, Defense Logistics Management Support Office, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767- 0067, DSN 427-0067, terry_gower@hq.dla.mil

Chair, Data Standards/Design Repository Sub-Group to the EDI IPT, ERP group:

Ms. Charlene Woodman, Defense Logistics Information Service, Battle Creek, MI.

Commercial: 616-961-4118, DSN 932-4118, cwoodman@dlis.dla.mil

Chair, Business Rules Sub-Group to the EDI IPT, ERP group:

Mr. Dennis Thomas, Defense Logistics Management Standards Office, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767-0682, DSN 427-0682, dennis_Thomas@hq.dla.mil

Chair, Information Exchange Services Sub-Group to the EDI IPT, ERP group:

Mr. Stuart Scott, Defense Automatic Addressing System Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Commercial: 937-656-3705, DSN 986-3705, sscott@daas.dla.mil

Chair, Operational Repositories Sub-Group to the EDI IPT, ERP group:

Ms. Jo Geiger, Defense Logistics Information Service, Battle Creek, MI.

Commercial: 616-961-7490, DSN 932-7490, jgeiger@dlis.dla.mil

HQ DLA, Information Operations, JECPO/eBusiness, DAASC Focal Point:

Ms. Shelly Broussard, DLA J-672, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767-3132, DSN 427-3132, shelly_broussard@hq.dla.mil

HQ DLA, Information Operations, JECPO/eBusiness, DLMSO Focal Point:

Mr. James Johnson, DLA J-673, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767-0670, DSN 427-0670, ja_johnson@hq.dla.mil

Defense eBusiness Exchange Engineer, Technical and Financial Transaction Focal Point:

Mr. Barry Wallack, JECPO/DISA, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Commercial: 703-767-0651, DSN 427-0651, wallackb@ncr.disa.mil

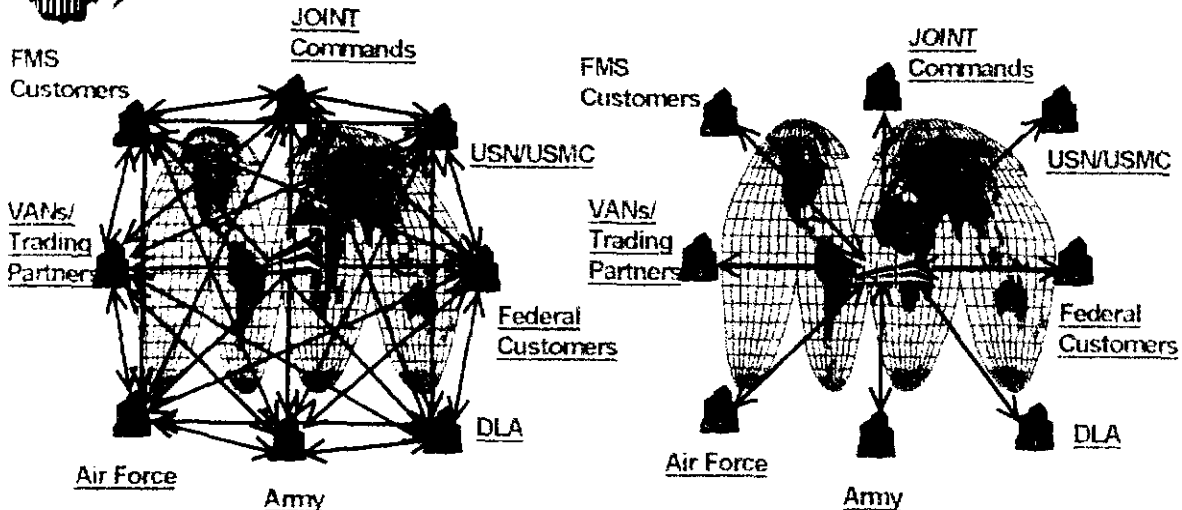
Attachment 3

DoD LOGISTICS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEBX BENEFITS

Joint Logistics Agency



DEBX = Benefits



Movement to DEBX decreases connections from 28 to 8 – Resulting in ...

